SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 1, line 9, please delete "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION AND PRIOR ART" and substitute therefor:

A1

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention --.

At page 1, line 28, please insert:

A2

-- 2. Description of the Prior Art --.

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A device for detecting a disease of the udder of an animal, comprising:

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means [(9)] for appreciating a parameter related to the quantity of milk extracted from a first teat and at least a second teat of said animal during at least one milking operation[,];

means [(6)] arranged to determine a deviation of said parameter of the first teat from a comparison value[,] and;

means [(7)] arranged to display said deviation as an indication of an inflammation of the first teat at least in the case that said deviation exceeds a certain level, [characterized in that]

wherein the determining means [(6)] is arranged to define said comparison value by including the level of said parameter regarding said second teat during said milking operation.

2. (Amended) A device according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the first teat and said second teat form one of a rearward pair of teats of the udder [or] and a forward pair of teats of the udder.

3. (Amended) A device according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein said comparison value includes the level of said parameter of at least one preceding milking operation of said animal.

4. (Amended) A device according to claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the determining means [(6, 8)] is arranged to consider the time interval between the milking operation and the immediately preceding milking operation of said animal for determining said deviation.

cont A3

5. (Amended) A device according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein said parameter includes the quantity of milk produced during said milking operation and that the appreciating means [(9)] includes a milk measuring device.

6. (Amended) A device according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the milk measuring device [(9)] includes a flow meter.

7. (Amended) A device according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein said parameter includes the time duration of said milking operation and that the appreciating means includes a time measuring device [(8)].

8. (Amended) A method of detecting a disease of the udder of an animal, comprising the steps of:

appreciating a parameter related to the quantity of milk extracted from a first teat and at least a second teat of said animal during at least one milking operation;

defining a comparison value by the level of said parameter regarding said second teat during said milking operation;

determining a deviation of said parameter of the first teat from said comparison value; and

indicating an inflammation of the first test at least in the case that said deviation exceeds a certain level.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 8, comprising the further step of[:] displaying said deviation as an indication of an inflammation of the first teat in the case that said deviation exceeds a certain level.

10. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claim 8 and 9] claim 8, wherein the first said teat and said second teat form one of a rearward pair of teats of the udder [or] and a forward pair of teats of the udder.

11. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 8 to 10] claim 8, wherein said comparison value includes the level of said parameter of at least one preceding milking operation of said animal.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 11, comprising the further step of[:] considering the time interval between said milking operation and the nearest preceding milking operation of said animal when determining said deviation.

13. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 8 to 12] claim 8, wherein said appreciating step includes measuring the quantity of milk extracted from the actual teat during said milking operation.